

Message Text

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R 271445Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9613

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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TAGS: UNESCO TGEN TECH MA

SUBJECT: CASTARAB - 76 CONFERENCE REPORT

1. SUMMARY: CASTARAB CONFERENCE PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY AND IN BUSINESSLIKE MANNER WITH A MINIMUM OF POLEMICS AND EXTRANEIOUS POLITICS. THE CONFERENCE PRODUCED A GENERAL DECLARATION WHICH EMPHASIZED: (A) THE IMPORTANCE OF S&T IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARAB WORLD; (B) THE NEED FOR REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ATTACK SHARED PROBLEMS; (C) THE NEED FOR COORDINATED NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICIES INTEGRATED WITH ECONOMIC PLANNING; AND, (D) STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY IMPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL CAPACITIES. OVER EIGHTY RECOMMENDATIONS OF VARYING SPECIFICITY DEALING WITH SCIENCE POLICY, SUBSTANTIVE S&T AREAS, WERE PRODUCED. TO KNOWLEDGE OF USDEL, NO UNESCO/ISRAEL ISSUE AROSE DURING CONFERENCE. NO REFERENCE TO ISRAEL OR TO ARAB/ISRAEL ISSUES IS CONTAINED IN FINAL REPORT. ISRAEL CAME IN FOR ONLY MINIMUM RITUAL MENTION FROM FLOOR DURING CONFERENCE, SOMETIMES COUPLED WITH BACK HANDED COMPLIMENTS FOR ITS EFFECTIVE USE OF S&T TO ACHIEVE GOALS. MOST IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS WERE A COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISH A \$500 MILLION ARAB FUND TO SUPPORT S&T PROJECTS AND A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO COORDINATE FOLLOW UP. FULL REPORT WITH DOCUMENTS WILL BE FORWARDED DEPARTMENT SHORTLY BY USDEL RICHMOND. END SUMMARY.

2. CONFERENCE WAS CONVENED BY UNESCO DIRGEN AHMADOU M'BOW AND ELECTED MOROCCAN MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION ABDELLATIF BEN ABDELJLIL PRESIDENT. TWO COMMISSIONS WERE SET UP. COMMISSION I CHAIRED BY DR. SAID HADDARA, EGYPTIAN UNDERSECRETARY OF MIN. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND ATOMIC ENERGY, INCLUDED S&T POLICY AND CASTARAB FOLLOW UP. COMMISSION II CHAIRED BY DR. ISSAM AL-KHAIRY, SEC GEN NAT. DOC. CENTER OF JORDAN, DEALT WITH PROJECTS FOR REGIONAL S&T COOPERATION. THE COMMISSIONS SEPARATE REPORTS WERE COMBINED INTO A SINGLE REPORT TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE AUTUMN UNESCO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3. RE SCIENCE POLICY, IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT ARAB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENTS: (A) CREATE OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY BODIES WHICH ARE TO HAVE DIRECT INPUTS INTO DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC PLANNING; (B) DEVELOP NATIONAL SCIENCE PLANS; (C) ALLOCATE R&D FUNDS INCREASING ANNUALLY TO 05 PERCENT GNP BY 1980 (NOTICE WAS TAKEN OF THE ISRAELI LEVEL SAID TO BE TWO PERCENT GNP); (C) REACH A LEVEL OF 500 R&D SCIENTISTS PER MILLION PERSONS IN EACH COUNTRY; AND, (D) COORDINATE SCIENCE

PLANS WITH EACH OTHER.

4. RE TECH TRANSFER: (A) DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICIES TO PROMOTE TRANSFER IN BALANCE WITH LOCAL ENDEAVORS AND ON FAVORABLE TERMS WAS EMPHASIZED. SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT BODIES ARE TO MONITOR IN COUNTRY FOREIGN PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND JOINT VENTURES TO ASSIST IN THE ASSIMILATION OF APPLICABLE TECHNOLOGIES. (B) TRANSNATIONAL CORPS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO TRAINING AND LAB UPGRADING AND ALLOW LOCAL USE OF THEIR FACILITIES. MILD QUOTE NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER UNQUOTE RECOMMENDATION READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE . . . COMPETENT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE INVITED TO LOSE NO TIME IN ADOPTING AN EQUITABLE AND STABLE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE

5. RE TRAINING, TECH INFO, EDUCATION, DOCUMENTATION AND QUOTE BRAIN DRAIN UNQUOTE, IT WAS RECOMMENDED TO FORMULATE POLICIES FOR STINFO AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY, STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION CENTERS; DEVELOP REGIONAL CENTERS; AND, COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES, E.G., UNISIST, PSINES. A STUDY IS TO BE MADE OF MOVEMENTS OF SKILLED PERSONNEL TO ASSESS BRAIN DRAIN PROBLEM (SUDAN MADE PASSING REFERENCE TO FACT THAT BIG PORTION OF THIS IS AMONG ARAB COUNTRIES). EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES ARE TO BE STRENGTHENED AND TECHNICIAN TRAINING EMPHASIZED.

6. QUOTE ARABIZATION UNQUOTE OF TEXT BOOKS, DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISMS WAS ALSO EMPHASIZED. WORK BEING DONE IN MOROCCO AND FACILITIES IN USE HERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WERE VERY FAVORABLY MENTIONED. GOAL IS TO REACH POSITION WHERE ALL DISCIPLINES CAN BE TAUGHT IN ARABIC. COMPARISON WAS MADE BY AT LEAST ONE ARAB SPEAKER WITH ISRAELI SUCCESS IN INCREASING THE USE OF HEBREW IN S&T AND EDUCATION.

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R 271445Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9614

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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7. IN ORDER TO INSURE FOLLOW UP AND COORDINATE THE
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MANY CASTARAB RECOMMENDATIONS, A QUOTE STANDING CONFER-
ENCE UNQUOTE WITH A MINISTERIAL STEERING COMMITTEE WAS
ESTABLISHED. IT IS TO MEET AT LEAST EVERY THREE YEARS
AND PROBABLY MORE FREQUENTLY (SOME COUNTRIES WANTED

ANNUAL MEETINGS). INITIAL MEMBERSHIP OF MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE IS CHAIRMAN, MOROCCA (ABDELJILIL), IRAQ, KUWAIT, AND SUDAN. THE SECRETARIAT IS TO BE PROVIDED BY UNESCO IN COOPERATION WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ALECSO) AND THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ECWA). EXACTLY HOW THIS IS TO WORK IS NOT CLEAR, BUT WILL BE BROUGHT UP IN UNESCO GENERAL ASSEMBLY. M'BOW IS TO CONSULT WITH ALECSO AND ECWA WHO WERE REPRESENTED HERE.

8. PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATION IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN QUOTE ARAB FUND FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE ARAB WORLD UNQUOTE. THE MINISTERIAL STEERING COMMITTEE IS TO COMMISSION A TECHNICAL STUDY TO DEFINE THE TASKS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE FUND, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EXISTENCE OF THE ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER SOURCES FROM WHICH INITIAL CAPITALIZATION OF \$500 MILLION COULD BE DRAWN. INPUTS FROM INDIVIDUAL ARAB COUNTRIES TO BE BY SUBSCRIPTION. DR. YUSSUF AL TURKI, GEN. MGR. ARAB ORGANIZATION FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION IN CAIRO AND MOST ACTIVE SAUDI DELEGATE TOLD USDEL RICHMOND HE (AND KUWAIT) ENVISAGED FUND AS BEING SEPARATE FROM MINISTERIAL S&T COUNCIL, UNESCO OR ALECSO. IT WOULD BE INDEPENDENT AND FUND PROJECTS ON BASIS OF ITS OWN EVALUATIONS, NOT ON AUTOMATIC RECOMMENDATION OF ARAB STATES OR REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. AL TURKI ALSO SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN TECHNICAL STUDY FOR FUND. HE MENTIONED BATELLE, SRI AND NSF AS HAVING USEFUL CAPABILITIES.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO SPECIFIC S&T AREAS AND PROJECTS FOR EMPHASIS WERE FORMULATED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: (A) HYDROLOGY, IRRIGATION, WATER MANAGEMENT, RESEARCH AND USE; (B) MANPOWER TRAINING; (C) GEOLOGY, SEISMOLOGY, AND RESOURCE MAPPING; (D) ARID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ZONES AND ECOSYSTEMS; (E) OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE SCIENCES; (F) INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND DOCUMENTATION; AND, (G) ENERGY. NUMEROUS RECOMMENDATIONS IN THESE AREAS WILL BE DETAILED IN USDEL FOLLOW UP AIRGRAM. IN GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS EMPHASIZED BETTER FOCUS AND USE OF EXISTING ARAB FACILITIES AS WELL AS COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS LIKE QUOTE MAN IN BIOSPHERE UNQUOTE PROGRAM. IN ENERGY AREA, DEVELOPMENT OF THREE 50MW RESEARCH REACTORS IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF ARAB WORLD WAS SUGGESTED. EGYPT SAID THIS WAS TOO EXPENSIVE, BUT CONSENSUS WAS THAT SINCE IT WAS A

SUGGESTION, THERE WAS NO COMMITMENT, SO LANGUAGE REMAINED.
THERE WAS ALSO TO BE CONSIDERATION OF AN ARAB RECYCLING
PLANT QUOTE IN COLLABORATION WITH IAEA UNQUOTE.

10. EGYPT'S REMOTE SENSING CENTER WAS DESIGNATED AS
A SERVICE CENTER FOR ALL ARAB STATES AND ASKED TO ASSIST
IN ESTABLISHING SATELLITE RECEIVING STATIONS AND IN ERTS
PROJECTS. SIMILARLY, SOME SPECIFIC DESIGNATION OF
FACILITIES IN MOROCCO (SEISMOLOGY, DOCUMENTATION) AND
JORDAN WERE MADE. A COMPLETE GEOLOGICAL AND RESOURCE
MAP OF THE ARAB WORLD IS TO BE COMPILED.

11. THE CASTARAB AID/SAT DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE
AUGUST 23 AND WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED. THE CASTARAB
PANEL WAS UNESCO DIRGEN M'BOW, CONFERENCE PRESIDENT
ABDELJLIL, DR. N. ABDUL-KADIR (IRAQ) CONFERENCE
RAPPORTEUR, DR. A.R. KADDOURA (UNESCO) AND DR. M.
BATISSE (UNESCO). MORE QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
WERE RECEIVED THAN COULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE TIME
RESERVED. EMBASSY RABAT AND USDEL JOINTLY GAVE
COCKTAIL IN HONOR OF PRESENTATION WHICH WAS ATTENDED
BY M'BOW, ABDELJLIL, MEMBERS OF MANY DELEGATIONS AND
THE PRESS.

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R 271445Z AUG 76

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12. COMMENT: CASTARAB CAN BE TERMED A SUCCESS, AS
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CONFERENCES OF THIS SORT GO. IT WAS BUSINESSLIKE AND WELL ORGANIZED. MANY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SPECIFIC AND REASONABLE. CONTENTIOUS EXTERNAL POLITICAL ISSUES WERE AVOIDED FOR THE MOST PART. ONLY EXCEPTIONS WERE IMPLICIT ATTACK ON LIBYA BY SUDAN DURING OPENING SPEECH (QUOTE THOSE AMONG US WHO WOULD DIVIDE OUR COMMON EFFORT UNQUOTE); LIBYA HAD MILD RESPONSE, AND SEVERAL REFERENCES TO QUOTE COMMON ENEMY OCCUPYING ARAB SOIL UNQUOTE, OCCURRED IN SPEECHES BY SYRIA AND PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF YEMEN. NO MENTION WAS MADE ON THE FLOOR OF QUOTE UNESCO ISSUES UNQUOTE, E.G., STATUS OF ISRAEL OR U.S. POSITION. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE IN CORRIDORS; AND THEN IN PASSING. ALGERIA'S ABSENCE WAS NOT REMARKED ON IN THE MEETING.

13. MOST QUOTE POLITICAL UNQUOTE DISCUSSION CONCERNED JOCKEYING FOR POSITION BY UNESCO AND ALECSO STAFFS WITH RESPECT TO FOLLOW UP CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITIES. MOST COUNTRIES CONSIDERED THEMSELVES TO BE PARTICIPATING IN A PAN ARAB CONFERENCE INCIDENTALLY SPONSORED BY UNESCO. IF THESE COUNTRIES HAD THEIR WAY, MORE RESPONSIBILITY WOULD HAVE GONE TO ALECSO; HOWEVER, ALECSO HAS LIMITED STAFF AND NEED TO DRAW ON GREATER EXPERTISE OF UNESCO WAS RECOGNIZED. MANY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ADDRESSED TO ARAB GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY, SO PRESUMABLY CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT UNESCO GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVAL. SAUDI

ARABIA, KUWAIT AND GULF STATES TENDED TO VIEW CONFERENCE AS USEFUL IN DEFINING GOALS, BUT FEEL IT REALLY WAS NOT NEEDED EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND. THEY WILL GO AHEAD WITH THEIR OWN INTERESTS IN ANY EVENT. IRAQ PUSHED HARD BUT UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR A ROLE FOR A NEW FEDERATION OF ARAB SCIENTIFIC COUNCILS LOCATED IN BAGHDAD (IT HAS ONLY SEVEN COUNTRY MEMBERS).

14. CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY OBSERVER DELEGATIONS FROM SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, E.G., WIPO, UNEP, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES (UK, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, FRG, BRAZIL, AUSTRIA). GERMANY AND FRANCE SENT OBSERVERS FROM HOME, OTHERS WERE FROM LOCAL EMBASSIES. PRIMARY INTEREST OF EUROPEANS WAS IN ASSESSING MEANING OF CONFERENCE FOR EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. CONSENSUS WAS THAT THERE IS LITTLE, EXCEPT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN POSSIBILITIES FOR EUROPEAN INPUTS INTO SPECIFIC PROJECTS.

15. PLO AND ALGERIA WERE NOTABLE ABSENTEES. USDEL HEARD NO REFERENCE TO ABSENCE, EVEN THOUGH CONFERENCE TERMS OF REFERENCE PROVIDED FOR ITS ATTENDANCE, AND PLO HAS SHOWN UP IN OTHER CONFERENCES FURTHER REMOVED FROM ARAB INTERESTS. EMBASSY RABAT AND USDEL (EMBASSY CAIRO) WILL ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE IF PLO ABSENCE HAS ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE. IF MAY BE OF INTEREST THAT PRESENCE OF LEBANON WAS SPECIFICALLY NOTED DURING CONFERENCE AND REFERENCE WAS MADE TO INTEGRITY OF LEBANON AS AN ARAB NATION.

16. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE WERE VERY EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY HANDLED BY THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT. SECURITY WAS TIGHT AND THINGS MOVED ON SCHEDULE. HOSPITALITY WAS EXCELLENT (INCLUDING TWO FIVE-COURSE DINNERS FOR OVER 100 PEOPLE). DELEGATES FROM ARAB COUNTRIES SEEMED IMPRESSED WITH PROGRESS AND LIFE IN MOROCCO. SPECIFIC TRIBUTE TO THE PROGRESS THROUGH THE POLICIES OF KING HASSAN WAS PAID, FOR ALL DELEGATES, BY THE SUDAN REPRESENTATIVE IN A CLOSING SPEECH. END COMMENT.
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